



HULL DOWN

HULL DOWN





“Now when you get to Tokyo
...”

“Say, Chief,” puts in one of the young seamen, “when we get to Tokyo there’s not going to be much left of it. But boy, am I going to make a real liberty in that town! Watch my smoke!”

The Chief snorts, "I hope your smoke isn't from a burn. You fellows have got to get this through your heads: We've got lots of enemies who don't carry guns, and who don't know what 'unconditional surrender' means. They've got to be liquidated—and you've got to watch your step all along the way to Tokyo and Berlin and back home again."

"Drop the smokescreen, Chief. What are you driving at?"

"Just this. We've got enemies, disease enemies, that are tougher than the Nips or the Nazis ever thought of being. Typhus, malaria, dysentery—and *venereal diseases*. They cause the same kind of damage as enemy fire. They put men out of action without costing the enemy a single shell.



"You've heard about *geisha* girls, and the *imbai* and *shogi*? Well, that's just Japanese for prostitute. In plain English that means in the long run syphilis, gonorrhea, chancroid, or some of the other venereal diseases. And maybe you didn't know it, but before the war the venereal disease rate was higher in the Asiatic Fleet than in any other unit of the Navy. That's because a lot of sailors and marines thought they could take a chance and get away with it."

A S2c pipes up: "Huh! I can always tell if a girl is clean. Anyway, if she's in a regulated house and has a health card you can bet she's O. K."

"That's a sucker bet, Mac," the Chief says. "If you think you can tell by looking, you have Super-



man's X-ray eyes. Health cards are usually fakes, or given out by some quack doctor. Even if the prostitute is examined, she can pick up germs a few minutes later from some other guy and pass them right on to you. It doesn't pay to take a chance.

"You know, lots of things seem different when you get overseas. Language, sure; and the way people look, what they eat, how they act. But remember, the way you do things is strange to them as well. And don't think you can play high and loose with the women. Wives and daughters and sisters mean just as much to people in other lands as they do to you in your own homes. One of the best ways to start plenty of trouble is to annoy native women. In the Moslem countries, for exam-



ple, it's better not to pay any attention to them. In fact, it's a safe bet that women and girls who are not bashful are infected with venereal disease.

"Yep, lots of things are different overseas. But the venereal diseases are not different—they are only worse. Lack of medical care, bad sanitary conditions, poverty add up to more venereal disease, more prostitution, more "easy-to-get" women. So when you go on liberty it's pretty much up to you whether you expose yourself and get infected.

"If you don't expose yourself, you bat 1.000—for yourself and for the Navy. But if you expose yourself without a 'pro,' you come up to the plate with two strikes on you.

"If you do take a chance, cover your sucker bet with a 'pro'—use a



condom. Wash thoroughly with soap and water. Then use a Navy 'pro' tube. Go to a 'pro' station if you can.

"That's the straight dope. It's up to you. So long . . . I hope to see you in Tokyo—and not in the sick bay."

NAVMED VD-8, BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

